

Case 3339***Celaenorrhinus ratna* Fruhstorfer, 1908 (Insecta, Lepidoptera):
proposed conservation of the specific name**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to conserve the specific name *Celaenorrhinus ratna* Fruhstorfer, 1908 for a widespread hesperiid butterfly, very common in the tropics. The name is threatened by a senior subjective synonym *Celaenorrhinus kawakamii* (Matsumura, 1907), which has not been catalogued or used since 1907. It is proposed that the name *ratna* Fruhstorfer, 1908 is conserved by suppression of *kawakamii* Matsumura, 1907.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; HESPERIIDAE; *Celaenorrhinus ratna*; *Celaenorrhinus kawakamii*; hesperiid butterfly; Asia.

1. Matsumura (1907, p. 50) described *kawakamii* as a species of *Notocrypta* Nicéville, 1889 from Taiwan. Since 1907 the name *kawakamii* has never been catalogued or used by any author except Inomata et al. (2000) who suggested suppressing it, although they did not re-examine the types.

2. Fruhstorfer (1908, p. 49) described *Celaenorrhinus sumitra ratna* from Taiwan in a short article. A year later Fruhstorfer (1909, p. 135) assigned *ratna* to *Celaenorrhinus consanguinea* Leech, 1891. This assignment was followed by Fruhstorfer (1910, p. 61), Matsumura (1919, pl. 50, fig. 2; 1929, p. 34; 1931, p. 580), Seitz (1927, p. 1036), Evans (1926, p. 65; 1932, p. 324), Esaki (1931, p. 107; 1932, p. 158), Hirayama (1933, pl. 59, fig. 12) and Sonan (1936, p. 211). Evans (1949) treated *ratna* as a species of *Celaenorrhinus*, to which he assigned three subspecies (*ratna* Fruhstorfer, 1908, *tytleri* Evans, 1926 (p. 66) and *daphne* Evans, 1949 (p. 95)). This taxonomy has been accepted and used by subsequent authors, e.g. Okano & Okura (1959, p. 64), Shirôzu (1960, p. 380), Chen (1974, p. 282), Yamanaka (1980, p. 101), Bridges (1983, p. 1.8), Hamano (1986, p. 254), Ae et al. (1987, p. 37), Smith (1989, p. 245; 1994, p. 245), Hsu (1990, p. 146; 1999, p. 16; 2002, p. 349), Chiba et al. (1992, p. 130), Haribal (1992,

p. 196), Uchida (1991, p. 212; 1995, p. 206), Chang (1993, p. 122), Chou (1994, p. 703; 1998, p. 271; 1999, p. 360), Lin (1994, p. 161; 2004, p. 260), Lee & Wang (1997, p. 41; 1999, p. 254; 2002, p. 292), Chang (1998, p. 354; 2000, p. 18), Watanabe (1998, p. 164) and Hsu et al. (in press).

3. Hsu et al. (in press) designated the lectotype of *Notocrypta kawakamii* Matsumura, 1907. The lectotype is housed in the Systematic Entomology Laboratory, Faculty of Agriculture, Hokkaido University of Japan (SEHU), and is conspecific with *Celaenorrhinus ratna* Fruhstorfer, 1908. The name *kawakamii* Matsumura, 1907 is therefore a senior subjective synonym of *ratna* Fruhstorfer, 1908.

4. *Celaenorrhinus ratna* is the most common *Celaenorrhinus* species in Taiwan (Okano & Okura, 1959; Hamano, 1986; Lin, 2004) and it has four currently recognized subspecies in India, the northwest Himalayan region (Evans, 1949) and southwestern China (Huang, 2001). *Celaenorrhinus* is the largest hesperiid genus in Taiwan (Hsu, 1990) and one of the largest genera in the world, distributed throughout the tropics (de Jong, 1982). Members of this genus are known to be very similar to one another and difficult to identify (Shirôzu, 1960; Hamano, 1986). To use the name *kawakamii* Matsumura, 1907 in place of its junior subjective synonym *ratna* Fruhstorfer, 1908 would involve a change in the name of a widespread species. The resurrection of the long-forgotten name *kawakamii* would cause unnecessary confusion in the taxonomic literature dealing with identifications within the genus *Celaenorrhinus* and would lead to nomenclatural instability. The name *kawakamii* was described after 1899, thus the conditions of Article 23.9.1.1 of the Code (Reversal of Precedence) are not met and a ruling by the Commission is needed for formal suppression of the name.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress the name *kawakamii* Matsumura, 1907, as published in the binomen *Notocrypta kawakamii*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *ratna* Fruhstorfer, 1908, as published in the trinomen *Celaenorrhinus sumitra ratna*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *kawakamii* Matsumura, 1907, as published in the binomen *Notocrypta kawakamii* and as suppressed in (1) above.

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